

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087690) in view of Okada (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,044) in view of Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of claim 1 lies in the aspect that "a plurality of symbols of the stopped reel are displayed through the symbol display area associated with the stopped reel and game information is superimposed via the second display means on the plurality of displayed symbols of the stopped reel while at least a remaining one of rotating reels continues to rotate, the game information notifying the player of a forthcoming winning result". Especially, it is the essential feature that game information is superimposed via the second display means on displayed symbols of the stopped reel while at least a remaining one of rotating reels continues to rotate.

None of the cited references does not, at all, disclose or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is deemed patentable over the applied art.

Claim 21, an independent claim, is a processor claim and the subject matter thereof lies in the aspect that "wherein, when the stopped symbols are a winning symbol combination, a plurality of symbols from the stopped reel are displayed through the symbol display area associated with the stopped reel and game information is superimposed via the second display device on the plurality of displayed symbols of the stopped reel while at least a remaining one of a plurality of rotating reels continues to rotate, the game information notifying the player of a forthcoming winning result".

Similar to claim 1, it is the essential feature that game information is superimposed via the second display means on displayed symbols of the stopped reel while at least a remaining one of rotating reels continues to rotate. None of the cited references does not, at all, disclose or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 21. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is deemed patentable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21 and includes all of the features of claim 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 21 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 27 (independent claim) and 28 (dependent claim of claim 27) include features not shown in the applied art, namely:

(first wherein clause): the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area in the second display means is changed so as to become high when the reels are rotating and the game result is displayed by the reels;

(second wherein clause): game information is information concerning with a specific winning combination determined as the internal winning combination by the internal winning combination determination means; and

(third wherein clause): the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is adjusted to low so that the game information is emphasized by obstructing the game result displayed on the first display means when the game information is displayed within the symbol display area.

None of the cited references does not, at all, disclose or suggest the characteristic constituent elements of claim 27. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 is allowable over the cited references.

To claim the point that a liquid crystal display device corresponding to "second display means" is set to a normally white state, claim 28 has been added. For the support of working effect of claim 28, paragraph [0033] is cited in the specification, especially, the underlined portion thereof.

[0033]

The liquid crystal panel 34 is formed by filling liquid crystal material in clearance formed between the transparent plate such as a glass plate on which thin film transistor layer is formed and the transparent plate facing thereto. The display mode of the liquid crystal panel 34 is set to normally white. Here, "normally white" means a construction that the liquid crystal panel 34 becomes in a white display state (light can advance toward the display plane, that is, light transmitted can be seen from outside) when the liquid crystal panel 34 is not driven. By utilizing the liquid crystal panel 34 constructed to have the normally white mode, the symbols (variable display and stop display of the symbol display parts) arranged on the reels 3L, 3C, 3R can be seen and recognized through the symbol display areas 21L, 21C, 21R even if it occurs a trouble that the liquid crystal panel cannot be driven. Thereby, the player can continue the game. That is to say, if the above trouble occurs, it can be conducted the game based on the basic function such as the variable display and the stop display of the reels 3L, 3C, 3R.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth

further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

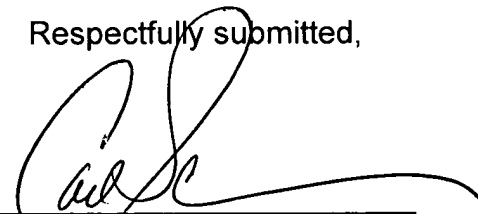
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (two months)

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